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15 August 1961

BERLIN SITUATION REPORT
(as of 1630 hours)

1. The East German regime introduced new measures on 15 August designed to give it better control over the entry of West Berliners and West Germans into East Berlin. Press reports earlier today gave conflicting accounts on the new steps that have been taken. According to East German announcements, West Berliners will now be required to secure permits for their vehicles before entering East Berlin; West Germans can now secure permits for entry into East Berlin at only two sector crossing points (four were specified in the 13 August decrees). The 15 August measures only specify West Berliners and West Germans in contrast to the 13 August decrees which also specified that they did not apply to the three Western Allies. Today's decrees violate, as do the 13 August decrees, the freedom of movement provisions guaranteed in the post-war Four Power agreements relating to Berlin.

2. The East German government warned on 15 August that agreements regulating traffic between West Germany and West Berlin might be affected if the West German government broke off the Interzonal Trade Agreement.

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This threatening statement probably was made in response to West German Chancellor Adenauer's statement that Bonn was considering abrogating the 1961 Interzonal Trade Agreement if there is no solution for the Berlin situation. This latest East German threat would not affect Allied military travel between West Germany and West Berlin.

3. According to the latest information available from US officials in Berlin, telephone service between West Germany and East Germany, West Berlin and East Germany, West Berlin and East Berlin, and West Berlin via a third country to East Germany is not possible. Telegram and postal service, however, between these areas is normal.

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